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SOURCE Documentary as indicated in bibliography. (Information requested.)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN OUTER MONGOLIA

[Letters in parentheses refer to the appended bibliography.]

A. General

To control telegraphic communications in Outer Mongolia in 1926, the Outer Mongolian government established the General Superintendent Bureau of Telegraphic Communications within the Ministry of Economics. In 1930 when this ministry was abolished, the bureau was transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In April 1931, its name was changed to the General Superintendent Bureau of Signal Communications, and the additional responsibilities of controlling the postal service, telephone, and radio were placed under its jurisdiction (a).

B. Wire Communications1. Telephonea. Long-Distance

Prior to 1934, the Ulan Bator (Urga)--Dzamiin Unde--Chang-ohia-k'ru (Kalgan) Line was the only long-distance telephone line in Outer Mongolia. When the Ulan Bator-Boroo Line and the Hara-Altan Bulag Line were completed in 1934, telephone service became available between Ulan Bator and Altan Bulag (a, b).

b. Local

Local telephone services are available at Ulan Bator and Altan Bulag (a, b, d, f). Telephone service at Ulan Bator was started by the Russians in 1916. In 1920, there were less than 50 subscribers. This number had increased to more than 300 by 1937 (a). Ulan Bator is the only city in Outer Mongolia with local telephone service (c). Dial telephones were installed at three places. A plan called for the installation of telephone system in five areas by the end of 1940 (e).

- 1 -

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2. Telegraph System

Telegraph installations were built originally by Russia.

a. By 1900, the following lines totaling 2,320 kilometers were in operation:

(1) From Altan Bulag on the Soviet-Mongolian border to Dzamin Unde on the Sino-Mongolian border with Ulan Bator as its center.

(2) From Jibhalanta (Uliassutai) to Khltuk in the USSR via Hadhal.

(3) From Jirgalanta (Kobdo) to Kosh Agach in the USSR.

Beside the above lines, there was another line, owned and operated by a Danish firm between Altan Bulag to Chang-chia-k'ou via Ulan Bator (b, c, d, e, g).

In 1919, the Soviet government turned the lines over to the Outer Mongolian government without compensation (b, c, d, e, g).

b. By 1936, the following lines were in operation:

(1) From Ulan Bator to Altan Bulag. There are three lines between these cities. The third is believed to have been built since the establishment of the Outer Mongolia Republic in 1924 (b).

(2) From Ulan Bator to Dzamin Unde. A new line was added to the two already established lines, making a total of three lines. One of the lines is owned and operated by a Danish firm. This line extends further south to Chang-chia-k'ou (b).

(3) From Ulan Bator to Ondor Haan (Ch'e-ch'en-han). It was built after 1924 and has been operating for the past several years (b).

(4) From Bayan Tumen (Kerulen) to Eryeen Tsab. This recently built line is considered one of the most important lines in Outer Mongolia because it is used to communicate with the Soviet forces in the Borzya areas (b).

(5) From Bayan Tumen to Ondor Haan. When the line between Bayan Tumen and Borzya was built, it became necessary to have this line to facilitate the liaison between Borzya and Ulan Bator. It also was built recently (b).

(6) From Ulan Bator to Jibhalanta via Tssetserlig. One source of information, dated 1935, reported that there are two lines from Ulan Bator to Tssetserlig, but this information has not been confirmed. A branch line extends to Tayin Gol (a famous gold-producing area) from Tssetserlig, and another line extends from Jibhalanta to Tsagan Olom (a salt-producing area) (b).

(7) From Hanga Suma to Jibhalanta. This old line, which was built before 1924, follows along the Tunkinakiy Highway from Moronii Buryee to Jibhalanta. A recent report, however, stated that it branches off from the said highway at Moronii Buryee and extends to Taryata, which is located west of Tssetserlig, where it links with the Tssetserlig-Jibhalanta Line. The report, however, is considered unreliable because the removal of the line from its original route is unlikely. Furthermore, Tunkinakiy Highway, which connects Jibhalanta and Khltuk is one of the most important roads in Outer Mongolia.

(8) From Hingalinta to Kosh Agach. This is an old line, which was built by the Russian government before 1900 and extends further north to Bisk and Novosibirsk.

- 2 -

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(9) From Jibhalanta to Jirgalanta. A previous report which stated that this line extended directly from Jibhalanta to Jirgalanta and that a separate line connected Jirgalanta and Ulaan Goom is believed to be false. It is more logical that the line should extend from Jibhalanta to Ulaan Goom and then to Jirgalanta because a direct route from Jibhalanta to Jirgalanta would require passing through desert areas and encountering numerous obstacles (b).

C. Wireless Communications

1. Wireless Telegraph

Wireless telegraph was introduced to Outer Mongolia in 1932, when the Mongolian Radio Company was organized to begin the building of a wireless network in Outer Mongolia for civilian uses. Since then, however, it has been used primarily for military purposes (g). A radio broadcast on 27 July 1940 reported that wireless telegraph stations have been installed in 14 aymag and at the Walya Coal Mine (c). A military wireless telegraph station is believed to be located at Bayan Tumen (a).

2. Radio Broadcasting

A central broadcasting station is located at Ulan Bator. Others are found at principal towns and villages across the country (c).

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- 3 -

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